

DYAR'S TUNNEL HOBBY MAY BE CURTAILED

Scientist Must Get Permits in Future; Officials Investigate Possible Danger.

Startled by the extent of the secret burrowing of Harrison G. Dyar, scientist of the Smithsonian Institute, Maj. John W. Oehmann, District building inspector, today will inspect the tunnels dug by the scientist and lay before the District commissioners a report of his findings.

Mr. Dyar's hobby of tunnel building was exposed when discovery of an underground labyrinth in the rear of 1510 Twenty-first street northwest, adjacent to Pelham Courts, a large apartment house, was followed by a second discovery that he has extensively tunneled under and around his present home at 804 B street southwest.

The tunnelling hobby may lead the scientist into legal difficulties, since it is forbidden to construct a tunnel under or adjacent to a building without a special permit from the District government. If it is found that either of the tunnels endangers Mr. Dyar's home or surrounding buildings steps will be taken immediately to prevent any damage, Maj. Oehmann said.

District officials do not desire, however, to inflict legal punishment for the indulgence of his "hobby" unless his recreation has endangered others, Maj. Oehmann said. Any tunnel building activities of the scientist in the future, however, must be conducted only when proper permit has been requested and been given by the District building inspector.